

# Community Resources for Individuals with Special Needs

General Community Resources		
Provider Name	Assistance Provided	Contact Information
ADA Watch	Defends and promotes the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	<a href="http://www.accessiblesociety.org/topics/ada/adawatchgroup.htm">http://www.accessiblesociety.org/topics/ada/adawatchgroup.htm</a>
Assistive Technology Education Network (ATEN)	Assistive technology support for students	<a href="http://www.aten.scps.k12.fl.us">www.aten.scps.k12.fl.us</a>
Caregiver.com	Caregiver support groups by county	<a href="http://www.caregiver.com/regionalresources/states/FL/support/index.htm">www.caregiver.com/regionalresources/states/FL/support/index.htm</a>
Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access	Assistive and universally designed technologies	800-726-9119 <a href="http://www.catea.org">www.catea.org</a>
CenterWatch	Provides educational materials on clinical research	<a href="http://www.centerwatch.com">www.centerwatch.com</a>
Clinical Trials	Provides information about federally and privately supported clinical research	<a href="http://www.clinicaltrials.gov">www.clinicaltrials.gov</a>
Disability Achievement Center	Advocacy for persons with disabilities in Pinellas and Pasco counties	866-539-7550 727-577-0065 <a href="http://www.disabilityachievementcenter.com/">http://www.disabilityachievementcenter.com/</a>
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)	Protects and advances the civil rights of people with limited abilities	800-348-4232 <a href="http://www.dredf.org">www.dredf.org</a>
Disability Rights Florida	Provides protection and advocacy services in the state of Florida	800-342-0823 850-488-9071 <a href="http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org/">http://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org/</a>
Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FAAST)	Advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology	813-844-7591 <a href="http://www.faast.org">www.faast.org</a>
Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged	Ensure the availability of efficient, cost-effective and quality transportation services for disadvantaged persons	813-276-8999 Hillsborough 727-464-8200 Pinellas 863-534-5301 Polk 727-834-3200 Pasco 352-799-1510 x15 Hernando 850-410-5715 Medicaid Specialist <a href="http://www.dot.state.fl.us/ctd/index.htm">www.dot.state.fl.us/ctd/index.htm</a>
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council	Information for people with limited abilities, families, advocates and professionals	800-580-7801 850-488-4180 <a href="http://www.fddc.org">www.fddc.org</a>

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Florida Disabled Outdoors Association	Education about the therapeutic value of recreation	850-201-2944 <a href="http://www.fdoa.org">www.fdoa.org</a>
Florida Housing Coalition	Resource list related to housing	850-878-4219 <a href="http://www.flhousing.org">www.flhousing.org</a>
Florida Independent Living Council (FILC)	Promote independent living opportunities for persons with limited abilities	877-822-1993 850-488-5624 (voice/TTY) <a href="http://www.flailc.org">www.flailc.org</a>
Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI)	Enable individuals to advocate for appropriate services and make wise service choices	877-926-3514 305-293-7626 <a href="http://www.fifionline.org">www.fifionline.org</a>
Florida Instructional Material Center for the Visually Impaired (FIMCVI)	Assist schools in obtaining specialized materials for students with visual impairments	813-837-7826 <a href="http://www.fimcvi.org">www.fimcvi.org</a>
Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)	Enhancing the quality of life for all individuals with learning disabilities	412-341-1515 <a href="http://www.ldaamerica.us">www.ldaamerica.us</a>
Medicaid Waiver	Re-integrate individuals into their communities	866-875-5660 <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/brainsc/medicaid/medicaidhome.html">www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/brainsc/medicaid/medicaidhome.html</a>
New Horizon Fund	Offers loans for the purchase of assistive technology (up to \$30,000), and home-based business loans (up to \$20,000)	888-788-9216 <a href="http://www.faast.org/New-Horizon-Fund/assistive-technology-loans">http://www.faast.org/New-Horizon-Fund/assistive-technology-loans</a>
Self Reliance, Inc, Center for Independent Living	Advocacy, peer support and mentoring.	813-375-3965 813-375-3972 (TTY) <a href="http://www.self-reliance.org">www.self-reliance.org</a>
Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind	Comprehensive rehabilitation programs for persons who are blind or visually impaired	813-251-2407 <a href="http://www.tampalighthouse.org">www.tampalighthouse.org</a>
The Able Trust	Provides Floridians with limited abilities fair employment opportunities	850-224-4493 <a href="http://www.abletrust.org">www.abletrust.org</a>
Vocational Rehabilitation	Enable individuals with limited abilities to obtain and keep employment	800-451-4327 <a href="http://www.rehabworks.org">www.rehabworks.org</a>
VSA Florida	Helping persons with limited abilities learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts	813-975-6962 <a href="http://www.vsafll.org">www.vsafll.org</a>

<b>Government Offices</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Directory of Elected Officials		<a href="http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml">http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml</a>
Florida Commission on Human Relations		<a href="http://fchr.state.fl.us">http://fchr.state.fl.us</a>
Florida Department of Elder Affairs		800-963-5337 <a href="http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/index.php">http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/index.php</a>
Florida Division of Workers Compensation		800-342-2762 850-413-3100 <a href="http://www.fldfs.com/wc/">http://www.fldfs.com/wc/</a>
Florida LTC Ombudsman Program	Advocate for those living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and adult family care homes.	<a href="http://ombudsman.myflorida.com/index.php">http://ombudsman.myflorida.com/index.php</a>
Florida Medicaid Office		888-419-3456 <a href="http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/index.shtml">http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/index.shtml</a>
Florida State Website	Information for residents of Florida	<a href="http://myflorida.com/">http://myflorida.com/</a>
State Library of Florida		850-245-6600 <a href="http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/library/">http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/library/</a>
SunPass Prepaid Toll Program	Assists persons with limited abilities pay for tolls	888-865-5352

<b>Service Animals</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Canine Companions for Independence		<a href="http://www.cci.org">http://www.cci.org</a>
Canine Helpmates, Inc.		907-357-5700
Classic Service Dog Network	Types of dogs trained: Service, Hearing, Seizure Alert/Response, Therapy	904-775-1559 407-474-2875 <a href="mailto:jcarter@cfl.rr.com">jcarter@cfl.rr.com</a>
Florida Canines Assisting People	Types of dogs trained: Service, Therapy	352-821-2798
Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf	Types of dogs trained: Hearing	800-520-4589 941-748-8245 (TDD)
New Horizon Service Dogs	Types of dogs trained: Service, Mobility Assistance	386-456-0408 <a href="mailto:newhorizons@cfl.rr.com">newhorizons@cfl.rr.com</a>
Okada	Types of dogs trained: Seizure Response, Hearing, Social/Therapy, Alzheimer's Guide Dogs	352-344-2212 <a href="mailto:okada@okadadogs.com">okada@okadadogs.com</a>

<b>Service Animals</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Sedona Service Dog Program	Assists persons with limited abilities pay for tolls	<a href="mailto:sedonaK9@aol.com">sedonaK9@aol.com</a>
Wags / Vicon Kennels	Types of dogs trained: Service	352-482-3988

<b>Sports and Recreation</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
BlazeSports	Maximize potential through sports	<a href="http://www.blazesports.com">www.blazesports.com</a>
BlazeSports Daytona Beach	Maximize potential through sports	<a href="http://codb.us/residents/Departments/leisure/Therapeutic">http://codb.us/residents/Departments/leisure/Therapeutic</a>
BlazeSports Miami	Maximize potential through sports	<a href="http://www.shakealegmiami.org">www.shakealegmiami.org</a>
BlazeSports Pensacola	Maximize potential through sports	<a href="http://www.ci.pensacola.fl.us">www.ci.pensacola.fl.us</a>
BlazeSports Tampa Bay	Maximize potential through sports	813-744-5307
Broward County Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation Department	<a href="http://www.broward.org/parks">www.broward.org/parks</a>
Lee County Parks and Recreation	Parks and Recreation Department	<a href="http://www.leeparks.org">www.leeparks.org</a>
Sailability Tampa Bay	Adaptive sailing program individuals with limited abilities	727-489-9468 <a href="http://www.sailabilitygreatertampabay.org">www.sailabilitygreatertampabay.org</a>
Sailing Alternatives, Inc.		<a href="http://www.sailingalternatives.org">www.sailingalternatives.org</a>
U Can Ski 2	Provides adaptive water ski events for adults and children	<a href="http://www.ucanski2.com">www.ucanski2.com</a>
USA Water Ski Adapted	Provides resources for adaptive water skiing	<a href="http://www.usawaterski.org/pages/divisions/WSDA/main.htm">www.usawaterski.org/pages/divisions/WSDA/main.htm</a>

<b>Veterans Benefits</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Paralyzed Veterans of America	Provides assistance to paralyzed veterans	<a href="http://www.pva.org">www.pva.org</a> <a href="http://www.pvaf.org">www.pvaf.org</a> (Florida Chapter) <a href="http://www.centralfloridapva.org">www.centralfloridapva.org</a> (Central Florida Chapter)
Veterans Affairs		<a href="http://www.va.gov">www.va.gov</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with ALS</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
ALS Association Florida Chapter	Helps people living with ALS and searches for a cure	888-257-1717 813-637-9000 <a href="http://www.als-florida.org">www.als-florida.org</a>
Roger M. Dauback Foundation, Inc.	Assists persons with ALS and their families	407-733-3741 <a href="http://rogerals.org/">http://rogerals.org/</a>
U of M ALS Clinical and Research Program	Clinical trials related to ALS	305-243-7424 <a href="http://miami-als.org/research.htm">http://miami-als.org/research.htm</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Brain Injury</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program	Provides the opportunity to obtain the necessary services enabling them to return to their community	800-342-0778 <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/index.html">http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/index.html</a>
Brain Injury Association of Florida (BIAF)	Informs, educates, supports, and advocates on behalf of traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivors, their families and caregivers	800-992-3442 <a href="http://www.biaf.org">www.biaf.org</a>
Miami Jewish Home and Hospital	Brain and Spinal Cord Injury ventilator dependent rehabilitation program	305-751-8626 x3843 <a href="http://www.mjhha.org">www.mjhha.org</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Friedreich's Ataxia</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	Provides support to those affected	610-667-0131 <a href="http://www.gbs-cidp.org">http://www.gbs-cidp.org</a>
Tampa Bay Ataxia Group	Improving the lives of persons affected by ataxia	<a href="http://www.ataxia.org/chapters/TampaBay/defaults.aspx">www.ataxia.org/chapters/TampaBay/defaults.aspx</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Multiple Sclerosis</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
MSSA Southeast Regional Office		800-532-7667 x154 727-367-1113
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America	Enrich the quality of life for everyone affected by Multiple Sclerosis	<a href="http://www.msaa.com">www.msaa.com</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Muscular Dystrophy</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Muscular Dystrophy Association	Provides support to those affected	<a href="http://www.mdausa.org">www.mdausa.org</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Post-Polio Syndrome</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Post-Polio Health International	Enhance the lives and independence of polio survivors	<a href="http://www.post-polio.org">www.post-polio.org</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Stroke</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
America Stroke Association	Build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular disease & stroke	888-478-7653 <a href="http://www.strokeassociation.org">www.strokeassociation.org</a>
CDC's Cardiovascular Health	Provide public health leadership to improve cardiovascular health for all	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/">http://www.cdc.gov/DHDSP/</a>
Florida Department of Health	Promoting health and preventing chronic disease	<a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/heart/index.html">www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/heart/index.html</a>

<b>Additional Resources for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury</b>		
<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Christopher Reeve Foundation	Committed to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for people with SCI	800-225-0292 <a href="http://www.christopherreeve.org">www.christopherreeve.org</a>
Citrus County Spinal Cord Injury Support Group		352-631-0191 Rufus Walters
Florida Dept of Health Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program	Provides eligible residents the opportunity to obtain the necessary services enabling them to return to their community	800-342-0778 866-875-5660 850-245-4045 <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/index.html">http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/BrainSC/index.html</a>
Florida Spinal Cord Injury Resource Center (FSIRC)	SCI resource information for persons who have survived and SCI	866-313-2940 <a href="http://www.fscirc.com">www.fscirc.com</a>
National Spinal Cord Injury Association's Florida Resources		<a href="http://www.spinalcord.org">www.spinalcord.org</a>
South Florida Spinal Cord Injury Model System		800-545-2292 305-585-1320 <a href="http://www.sci.med/miami.edu">www.sci.med/miami.edu</a>